

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DAILY 45: 118 YOUNG MALES
LOST TO GUN VIOLENCE IN D.C.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. In August, D.C. police were investigating the circumstances surrounding the murder of victims number 117 and 118, just two of the latest to die this year due to gun-related violence.

These murders occurred just north of Union Station in the vacant, dilapidated Temple Courts high-rise and townhouses. This is an area to be razed in the coming months, and although a new structure will rise—erasing the tragic events that lead to their deaths; these two young men, and dozens of others like them, had names and families and hopes and dreams of their own.

Victim no. 117, JohnQuan Wright, was only 18 years old. And 1 month later—victim 118's name has yet to be released. While their deaths were acknowledged in passing via the press, there remains little to no outcry that more than a hundred victims, most of them young men in the prime of their lives, have been lost to violence—most of it with a gun—this year in Washington, DC.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LES WHITT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of the late Robert Leslie "Les" Whitt. He will be remembered as a man with a deep love for people, music, and the Alexandria Zoo.

Mr. Whitt, of Alexandria, LA, died recently from heart complications after living 14 years with a transplanted heart. Whitt was a strong advocate for organ donation and loved speaking for the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency whenever possible.

Moreover, Mr. Whitt was passionate about his service to the citizens and administration of the city of Alexandria. He served as the director of the Alexandria Zoo for 34 years, and received the Dunbar Award for Civil Service in 1993. Mr. Whitt was also recognized for his progressive and inventive zoo exhibit designs. At the age of 16, he joined the American Zoo and Aquarium Association as a professional fellow member and has subsequently served the organization in many capacities including

Accreditation Inspection Team Leader. Mr. Whitt served selflessly on numerous committees representing the Alexandria Zoo in worldwide conservation efforts for endangered species.

In addition, Mr. Whitt's talent as a musician, particularly a Hammond B-3 player, was celebrated. He played with many local and regional musicians, as well as with greats like B.B. King and B.B. Major. He was altruistically involved with the youth and was a mentor to young zoo professionals, teen volunteers, Boy Scouts, and musicians.

Thousands of families will never overcome this loss of a true son of Alexandria. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Les Whitt for his exceptional contributions to central Louisiana and unparalleled influence on those of us who were blessed to know him.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL
SHUPP, UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today, I pay tribute to Col. Michael Shupp, United States Marine Corps. His service to our country and the Corps has demonstrated true patriotism and exceptional military leadership. On September 17, I will have the personal honor of presiding over Colonel Shupp's retirement ceremony, and I want to take this moment to recognize his 28 years of dedicated service.

Colonel Shupp was born and raised in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Since the beginning of his career, he has been a true professional in every sense of the word. His assignments have ranged from serving as a young platoon commander in Japan, to instructing our future leaders at the Naval Academy, where his performance was recognized by President George W. Bush. He served combat tours in Iraq and a peacekeeping tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wherever he was, he always set the highest standards of professionalism and leadership for all those around him. His superb leadership has been evident in numerous command and staff assignments throughout the Department of Defense, including a tour as the Marine Corps' Liaison to the House of Representatives and his current duty as the Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington DC.

Colonel Shupp served this Nation twice in combat. In 1990, Captain Shupp deployed Company "A" of the 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Once the ground war commenced, his company led the advance of the First Marine Division. His unit cut through Iraqi resistance

and led the first Coalition Forces into Kuwait City. Company "A," under Captain Shupp's leadership, then participated in the capture of the Kuwait International Airport. In 2004, Colonel Shupp returned to the Persian Gulf and assumed command of Regimental Combat Team-1 (RCT-1) at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. He commanded the Regiment during counter-insurgency operations, the second Battle of Fallujah, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts, and the first free Iraqi National election. After leaving Iraq, the Marine Corps and Department of Defense chose to capitalize on his experience. He was selected to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization in Washington, DC.

For 28 years, Colonel Shupp has served this great country from locations all over the world. Whether he was training new recruits, commanding marines in combat or working with Congress, he served with both honor and distinction. He will indeed be remembered as an exceptional marine, a true patriot, a courageous warrior and a dedicated leader with the highest integrity and compassion for all who had the distinct honor of serving with him.

His loving wife, Sherrye, and daughter, Jessica, have demonstrated unwavering support throughout his time in service, and this Nation owes a debt of gratitude to their sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER
MARGARET ANN COUGHLIN ON
HER GOLDEN JUBILEE AS A SIS-
TER OF MERCY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Margaret Ann Coughlin, RSM, on the joyous occasion of her 50th anniversary of religious life. I am especially pleased and proud to acknowledge her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Mercy because Sister Margaret Ann remains such an integral part of my family, celebrating with us in good times and offering herself as a steadfast tower of strength and comfort in our most challenging times. There are many families that claim Sister Margaret Ann as their own as her selfless outreach to those in need is well known and deeply appreciated.

It was also my good fortune to accompany Sister Margaret Ann to the White House ceremony honoring Pope Benedict's XVI first visit to the United States. While Sister refers to the Papal Visit as the highlight of her religious life, it was I who was honored to have shared this experience with this woman dedicated to the very principles Pope Benedict spoke of on that historic April day. Calling for a more compassionate, free and just society, Sister Margaret

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